

The Minutes of the Senate



Of the 317th Student Assembly of the College of William and Mary,
Meeting at 7:00pm on 21 April 2009 in Tyler 102,
Presided by Ryan Ruzic, Vice President of the Student Assembly;
Chaired by Walter McClean of the Class of 2009 and Ben Brown of the Class of 2011,
with Minutes Recorded by Secretary Caroline Mullis of the Class of 2009 and Brittany Fallon of the Class of 2011

Meeting convenes 7:01 pm.

Secretary Sen. Mullis called the roll; 18 senators present.

Reading and Approval of Minutes from 12/2/08

Sen. Felitto moved to accept the minutes by unanimous consent; PASSED.

Public Comment

None.

Bring-a-Student to Senate Introductions

The first of an ongoing effort put forth by the Student Assembly to become more knowledgeable and engaged with the Student Body. Senators were asked to bring a student to Senate.

Introductions as follows:

- Sen. Fallon: Usmaan, the outgoing President of SASA; created petition and then a proposal to measure support for a Hindi language program on campus, ending in a trial course this semester. He is in the process of creating permanent Hindi language program, to begin next semester. He and Sravya have secured funding to create an endowed chair for Hindi Language and South Asian Studies.
- Sen. Felitto: Emily and Nora, from her freshman hall. They are interested in how Senate works, came to witness the process.
- Betty Jeanne- trying to steal Nora from Steph
- Jill- Allison because she is wonderful and my big
- Matt- first senate meeting- Lacie Burke- to see how things run
- Ben Brown- has no friends today
- Juan- first senate meeting- from Queens, NY- no friends here
- Imad- new senator- no friend
- Jim- friend bailed on him- sad
- Gillingham- brought Carlos because he is my friend- he is with me though
- Houser- new senator-makes fun of everyone else- then says invited someone genuinely not associated with SA- friend is creating a poetry archive- documentary Thursday- Dalton

- Beato's date stood him up after learning no food
- Sammy- brought Janet King- she is undersec for Greek Affairs- and VP on ISC
- Karl- went here as an undergrad- working towards an MS in Biology
- Brian Gemino- MBA senator- president elect of the graduate council
- Scalzo- one of the new SBA representatives- Christine is also a law rep and Kristin O'Conner- friend to talk about Trial Team- similar to Mock trial- won tournaments- Moot Court- highly ranked- national championships- Academic Journals- top 20 Law Review- the Law Review is soooo amazing
- Park- representative from Grad Council- is a 3L
- Caroline- my friend is Caitlin- she takes pictures for the Flat Hat
- Walter- Spencer is the captain of the fencing team- asking for more rec sports vans- for travel
- Ryan Ruzic- Vice President

Committee Updates

- Finance and Budget (Sen. Mullis, Chairperson):
 - Discussed upcoming bills that you will see likely next week as old business
- Public Affairs (Sen. Rojas, Chairperson):
 - No meeting
- Student Life (Sen. Gillingham, Chairperson):
 - talked about the bills in committee- Caroline Mullis show- blue books- police forum- condoms
- Policy (Sen. Brown, Chairperson):
 - Attendance shaky- amend medical amnesty act and then passed it out with positive recommendation
- Outreach (Sen. Fallon, Chairperson):
 - Admitted students days- thanks for tabling- will be at Earth Day this weekend as well

Executive Updates

- Departmental/General Updates
 - applications for exec branches are up- tell your friends to get involved
- Review of Signed/Vetoed Legislation
 - SB 316-082 Collegiate Readership Act (Sens. Douglass and Eickel)- unsure
- Review of Constitutional Amendments
 - SB 316-083 The Constitutionally Accountable Executive Act (Sen. Beato, Brown, Felitto)
 - vetoed by the grad council- will forward the reasons to senate-l
 - SB 316-081 The Abstention Amendment IV (Sens. Beato and McClean)
 - passed both UG and Grad Councils- yes votes must exceed no votes

Special Business: Senate Secretary Election for the 317th Senate Session

- Nominations
 - Beato nominates Stef Felitto and Brittany Fallon

- Brittany accepts and Stef does not accept
- Speeches, in order of nomination
 - Secretary of Finance Committee
 - fills in for Caroline every once in a while
 - Beato says she takes good minutes
- Questions from the Senate, in order of nomination
 - Brittany- says she can learn to balance conversation and taking minutes
 - what is your style- writes down name and takes opinions, will have them out by Sunday
- Closed Session pursuant to Virginia FOIA Personnel exemption

Senator McClean moves to go into closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3711 paragraph 1 of the Code of Virginia to discuss certain personnel matters to appoint a Secretary of the Senate

PASSES 14-4-1

- Motion to Give SBA people executive privilege

Sen Beato move to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the section 2.2-3711 Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Senate of the Student Assembly.

-Open Session vote: PASSES

Sen. Fallon assumes the post of Secretary

Special Business: Senate Chair Election for the 317th Senate Session

- Nominations
 - Sen. Fallon nominates Senator Benjamin Robert Brown
 - Sen. Dunleavy nominated Sen. Steven Nelson in absentia
 - Both accept.
- Speeches, in order of nomination:
- Sen. Brown: Recognizes Sen. Beato and Sen. McClean as positive influences, wants to focus on what SA is doing well and what SA can do better. “We need to replace Matt Beato’s expertise” – Sen. Brown has purchased a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order (on a field trip with Sen. Fallon), and plans on spending his summer reviewing the rules, as well as other technical aspects pertinent to the position of Senate Chairman. He says committees must continue a regular weekly schedule, and his experience as policy chair has given him experience for issuing said meetings, setting agendas, etc. According to Sen. Brown, it is the Senate Chairman’s responsibility to suggest points of contact and facilitating meetings with exec; detailed records of all bills can replace coversheets. As a founding member of the Senate Outreach Committee, he wants to continue reaching out to students; as such, he recognizes President Rojas and Vice-President Ruzic for bridging the gap between graduates and undergraduates, and Sen. Brown will personally guarantee

reaching out to graduate students as well. He will work over the summer and over Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks to prepare for the academic year, and wants to stay in contact with both the Senate and the Executive to work on internal and external affairs beyond the time during which school is in session. Concluding, Sen. Brown has worked with many administrators in his two consecutive terms as Senator, would be honored to serve as Senate Chairman, and would provide his full dedication to the post. He is only taking 12 credits next semester, to ensure Senate becomes his top priority.

- Question & Answer for Senate Chairman Nominee Ben Brown:
 - Sen. Beato: Asks about coversheets, says that it was a point of contention- what will Sen. Brown do as Chairman? Further asks about personal disagreements with senators- will Sen. Brown allow personal relationships to deteriorate professional relationships?
 - Sen. Brown believes that the Chair can ensure facilitation between Exec & Senate without coversheets; he will not allow personal disagreements affect working relations.
 - Sen. Manning: Are you going to talk this much when you're chair?
 - Sen. Brown: "No."
 - Sen. McClean: How are you planning on reconciling Executive & Senate disconnect, should it happen?
 - Sen. Brown is willing to stand up to the President & Vice-President to defend something Senate supports; he recognizes that the Senate Chairman needs to represent the Senate as a body.
 - Sen. Felitto: How would your political leanings during the Presidential election affect your position as chair?
 - Sen. Brown believes he will certainly be able to work closely with the Executive, yet still be able to clearly represent the interests of the Senate.
 - Sen. Matini- Do you think your other extracurricular activities will interfere with the chairmanship?
 - Sen. Brown has been busy this year because he has been working on internal structure with CFA; given that reform is over, he feels as though he can handle the position, but he would resign if it became an issue.
 - Sen. Houser- There's no time conflicting with CFA & Senate? Do you think you should resign from CFA, because you would be participating a board that directly represents a special interest group?
 - Sen. Brown: "Not on CFA Judicial Board, no."
 - Sen. Fallon- "I feel as though I know you better than anyone in this room, and I am personally concerned with your ability to balance the workload of the chairmanship with your own happiness. How do you plan on being a good chair without letting it take over your life?"
 - Sen. Brown: He doesn't see it become too much of a problem, relies on friends like Sen. Fallon to let him know when he is in over his head.
- Given that Sen. Nelson ran in absentia, he neither gave a speech nor participated in a question & answer session.
- Sen. Beato moves to go into closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3711, paragraph one of the Code of Virginia to discuss certain personnel matters in the election of a Senate Chairman.

- Sen. Dunleavy seconds.
 - Secretary Sen. Fallon calls to vote.
 - **The motion to go into Closed Session PASSES in a roll call vote, 18-0-1.**
- Sen. Beato moves to give Sen. Roushdy Executive privilege by unanimous consent; no objections.

The Senate moves into Closed Session.

- Resume Open Session, 8:11 PM.
- Sen. Dunleavy moves to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the section 2.2-3711 Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Senate of the Student Assembly
 - Sen. Beato seconds.
- Secretary Sen. Fallon calls to vote the certification of the closed session
 - **The movement to certify the closed session PASSES in a roll call vote, 18-0-1.**
- Beato moves to call to question the election of chair by unanimous consent; no objections.
- Secretary Sen. Fallon calls to vote the election of Senate Chair.

Sen. Brown is ELECTED as Senate Chairman in a roll call vote, 18-0-1

- Senator Ben Brown resumes the chair seat at 8:15 PM to resounding applause and a (bear attack) hug from Chair Emeritus Walter McClean.

Past and Passed Legislation Updates

- SB 316-038 SOS (revised) (Sen. Manning)
 - Waiting to hear back from the Human Rights & Services committee
- SB 316-071 Printer Reallocation Act (Sen. Manning)
 - Haven't worked on it this week
- SB 316-079 Free Planners for Students to Help keep them Organized (Sen. Mullis)
 - Needs a signed copy of the bill from President-Emeritus Hopkins.
- SB 316-026 Open Billing Act (Sens. Nelson, Felitto, McClean)
 - Sen. Felitto was told to wait until after the BOV met to discuss fees, is now looking into contacting IT and Sam Jones regarding the matter.
- 316-078 CIA Bill (Sen. Olszewski and Manning)
 - Sen. Olszewski says they are waiting on the final model of the ID to be revealed so they know exactly how many phone numbers will fit.

Old Business

SB 317-003: Medical Amnesty Extension Act (Sens. Nelson, Brown, Felitto)

This bill will extend the current medical amnesty policy to include all forms of drugs; it is intended for use in situations where a student feels as though they need medical attention. It was given a positive recommendation by the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Committee.

Public Comment: None

Senator questions & comments:

- Sen. Beato: “Russ Zerbo, though he didn’t speak during public comment, wrote an article about this.”
- Sen. Felitto moves to suspend the rules by unanimous consent for Flat Hat Reporter Russel Zerbo to speak; no objections.
 - Mr. Zerbo says that he does not oppose this bill, just the school’s marijuana policy.
- Sen. McClean: “Have you already spoken to the administration?”
 - Chairman Sen. Brown: “Yes, we just need to deliver it to Ginger Ambler, who will then send it to President Reveley.”
- Sen. Mullis moves to pass this bill by unanimous consent; no objections.

The Medical Amnesty Extension Act PASSED by unanimous consent.

Introduction of New Business

- SB 317-001: The Collegiate Readership Act II (Sens. Mullis and Brown)
 - The fee information did not get to the BOV in time for this year’s budget; trying to ensure that the fee will certainly happen for next year’s budget
- SB 317-002 Summer Shuttle Service (S3) Act (Sens. Mendoza and Brown)
 - Sen. Mendoza thinks this is a very valuable service to all students, including summer research and international students; this will provide a summer shuttle service during the summer, which is necessary because the Green & Gold bus lines will not be running. They are planning on amending it in committee to extend it to taxi services during the exam period.
- SB 317-004 The Pimping Out of the Game Room Act (Sen. Mullis)
 - Allocates up to \$10,000 to improve the Sadler Center game room; this is an idea she came up with based on discussions during the EAC budget process.
 - “Nobody uses shuffle board, air hockey, or pin ball machines”- Sen. Mullis wants to look into getting race car games, possibly DDR, has been brainstorming with Student Life Committee and will continue to do so.
- SB 317-005 The Outreach Department Act (Sens. Brown and Fallon)
 - Creates an Executive Outreach department, dissolves the agency of the Internal Affairs; however, this bill will be seeing many amendments in committee.

Announcements

- Chairman Sen. Brown will be sending out an e-mail about committee assignments soon, please respond as soon as possible!

- Vice-President Ruzic encourages all senators to encourage students to apply to the Executive; further, he will be going to Paul's Deli, anyone of age is welcome to join him.
- President Rojas announces that the Image Awards are this Sunday 7 PM in the SC, sponsored by NAACP, IPAX, and SA.
- Sen. Mullis will be tabling from 11 AM-2 PM and 5-7 PM in the SC, handing out free condoms and candy...anyone is free to join! She also says that on there will be a student-police forum to address issues such as police jurisdiction, police presence, etc. This will occur on Wednesday, April 29th at 5 PM in Washington 201
- Secretary Sen. Fallon thanks everyone for bringing guests to Senate, it was very informative to meet new students.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Sen. Dunleavy moved to end the meeting by unanimous consent; PASSED.